



## Oakland may spare preschools at expense of adult education

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Oakland Tribune

Posted: 06/07/2010 07:36:09 PM PDT

Updated: 06/07/2010 09:41:30 PM PDT

OAKLAND — The Oakland school district will consider a proposal next week to salvage what it can of its preschool programs for low-income children — at the expense of immigrants, refugees, high school dropouts and others looking to better their lives through education.

At a special meeting Monday, the district administration will propose taking an additional \$5 million from adult education programs. The Edward Shands Adult School would close as a result, as would the Neighborhood Centers on International Boulevard and the Bond Street Annex.

The \$9.5 million total reduction for the next school year would wipe out adult English as a Second Language classes, citizenship preparation, and high school diploma and career technical education courses, said Brigitte Marshall, director of the district's adult education programs. The only offerings remaining after the 83 percent program cut would be school-based family literacy programs, high-school equivalency classes and credit recovery for current high school students through independent study.

"It's heartbreaking for everybody to see this happen and heartbreaking to watch our superintendent have to make these kinds of decisions," Marshall said.

The cuts to state-subsidized preschool centers, which the governor proposed last month, would eliminate nearly three-fourths of the Oakland district's early childhood budget, district spokesman Troy Flint said.

No one knows whether

those cuts will make it into the final state budget, but districts need to submit balanced budgets for next year by the end of the month, Flint said.

If the cuts don't go through, Flint said, the district would restore what it could.

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